

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 1-2, 8-13, and 30; claims 16-29 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-15 and 30-33 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-11, 13-26 and 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ji et al. et al. (US PG Pub. 2002/0172203)(hereinafter, Ji). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 16-26 and 28 without prejudice. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot. The Applicant has amended claims 1-2, 8-13, and 30 to better define the intended scope of the claimed invention. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

As noted in the Detailed Action, the Ji reference discloses fast IP lookup with 16K and 16/Kc compressed data structure. Ji discloses configuring a processor in order to achieve faster lookup times. Ji claims, in the Abstract, that his lookup method may be implemented using pipelining techniques to simultaneously perform multiple lookups for incoming packets. The Ji reference discloses algorithms for route lookup and update and in the description of the algorithms, Ji notes that each route lookup will “need two memory accesses in the worst case. Typically a lookup will require only one access...”. (para 0054) In other words Ji's algorithm will enable the system to have at most only two accesses to the memory but it will be typically only take one access.

In contrast to Ji, the Applicant's invention sets a limit on the number of accesses that are allowed. With Ji's system, accesses are not necessarily limited, it's just that the structure of the invention provides one or more accesses. The Applicant's present invention limits the number of accesses.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Ji does not teach or disclose limiting the number of accesses as claimed in amended independent claims 1 and 30. This being the case, claims 1 and 30 and the respective claims depending therefrom claim subject matter not taught in the Ji reference. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11, 13-18 and 30-33.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter as the invention. The term "cost" is described as unclear and/or inconsistent. The Applicant agrees and has amended the affected claims to improve the clarity of the language of the claims.

Claims 12 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, as to clarity and obscure meaning of the claim. Claim 27 is canceled and claim 12 has been corrected to improve the clarity.

Claims 16 is canceled and 30 has been corrected according to the Examiner's suggestions.

Prior Art Not Relied Upon

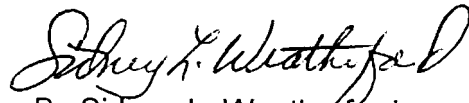
In paragraph 5 on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that the prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sidney L. Weatherford", written in a cursive style.

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